Fifth Conference of Labour Ministers of non-aligned and other countries

932. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether inaugurating the Fifth Conference of Labour Ministers of non-aligned and other developing countries, at New Delhi in January this year, India decried the attempts of developed countries to link trade with labour standards; and

(b) if so, what were the main observations and suggestions made and decisions taken at the Conference especially with regard to elimination of Child labour and improvement of condition of women through employment programmes?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The Fifth Conference of Labour Ministers of Non-Aligned and other Developing Countries held at New Delhi from 19th to 23rd January, 1995 resolved to oppose any efforts to establish linkage between international trade and enforcement of labour standards through the imposition of the social clause. The Conference also resolved, at the same time, that labour standards should be reviewed, updated and consolidated within the ILO without linkage to trade concerns, and that national level actions also should be taken to review ILO conventions, and strengthen laws and their enforcement. India is a party to the above resolution.

(b) The Conference also resolved to undertake programme for horizontal cooperation amongst the developing countries in the various socio-economic spheres having implications for labour and employment. It decided to give immediate priority for total and de facto elimination of child labour in hazardous employment by implementing a package of legislative and developmental measures with adequate allocation of resources. For elimination of gender discrimination it resolved that women should be given legal and administrative protection against all forms of discrimination in employment and affirmative action should be taken to enhance their participation in all economic activities.

Adoption of Social clause in conference of Labour Ministers

933. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what declaration was adopted at the five day Conference of Non-aligned and developing countries of Labour Ministers held at New Delhi in January this year, regarding the adoption of the social clause in matters of World Trade; and

(b) what was Government's stand in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The Fifth Conference of Labour Ministers of Non-aligned and other Developing Countries held at New Delhi from 19th to 23rd January, 1995 adopted the "Delhi Declaration" in which it was, inter-alia, resolved to oppose efforts to establish a linkage between